

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal comprising:

a stopper member attached to a floor of a driver's seat of the vehicle;

a pad member having a pad for receiving a depression force exerted by a driver;

a stopper fitting section provided on the pad member and including nails ~~[[to be]]~~ fitted into the stopper member and supporting plates connecting the pad member and the nails;

nail catch sections provided in the stopper member and against which the nails are hooked; a hinge section provided ~~[[for]]~~ connecting the pad member and the stopper fitting section, wherein

~~the nails are inserted toward the nail catch sections with the supporting plates bent inwardly from an initial state,~~

~~the nails are hooked against the nail catch sections after the insertion with the supporting plates returned to the initial state, and~~

a backup plate is provided against which ~~prevents~~ the supporting plates abut, ~~from being deformed from the initial state, so that the backup plate secures~~ securing the ~~reliable~~ engagement between the nails and the nail catch sections.

5. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 4, wherein the backup plate urges the nails upward, securing the ~~to secure the reliable~~ engagement between the nails and the nail catch sections.

6. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 4, wherein the backup plate has a nail relief hole ~~into which~~ that receives one of the nails ~~enters~~ while when the nails are hooked against the nail catch sections.

7. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 5, wherein the backup plate has a nail relief hole ~~into which~~ that receives one of the nails ~~enters~~ while when the nails are hooked against the nail catch sections

8. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 4, wherein a first release hole is provided in the stopper fitting section and a second release hole is provided in the stopper member around the nail catch section in alignment with the first release hole, ~~so that inserting a thin rod through the first and second release holes allows the backup plate to be depressed, thereby disengaging a hooked engagement between the nails and the backup plate.~~

9. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 5, wherein a first release hole is provided in the stopper fitting section and a second release hole is provided in the stopper member around the nail catch section in alignment with the first release hole, ~~so that inserting a thin rod through the first and second release holes allows the backup plate to be depressed, thereby disengaging a hooked engagement between the nails and the backup plate.~~

10. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 6, wherein a first release hole is provided in the stopper fitting section and a second release hole is provided in the stopper member around the nail catch section in alignment with the first release hole, ~~so that inserting a thin rod through the first and second release holes~~

~~allows the backup plate to be depressed, thereby disengaging a hooked engagement between the nails and the backup plate.~~

11. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 7, wherein a first release hole is provided in the stopper fitting section and a second release hole is provided in the stopper member around the nail catch section in alignment with the first release hole, ~~so that inserting a thin rod through the first and second release holes allows the backup plate to be depressed, thereby disengaging a hooked engagement between the nails and the backup plate.~~

12. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 4, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded ~~[[by]]~~ in a single resin material.

13. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 5, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded ~~[[by]]~~ in a single resin material.

14. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 6, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded ~~[[by]]~~ in a single resin material.

15. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 7, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded ~~[[by]]~~ in a single resin material.

16. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 8, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded ~~[[by]]~~ in a single resin material.

17. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 9, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded ~~in a single resin material.~~ in a single resin material.

18. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 10, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded ~~in a single resin material.~~ in a single resin material.

19. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal according to claim 11, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded ~~in a single resin material.~~ in a single resin material.

20. (New) A method of assembling an accelerator pedal comprising:
attaching a stopper member to a floor of a driver's seat of the vehicle;
providing a pad member having a pad for receiving a depression force exerted by a driver;
providing a stopper fitting section on the pad member and including nails to be fitted into the stopper member and supporting plates connecting the pad member and the nails;
providing nail catch sections in the stopper member and against which the nails can be hooked;
providing a hinge section for connecting the pad member and the stopper fitting section;
inserting the nails toward the nail catch sections with the supporting plates bent inwardly from an initial state;

hooking the nails against the nail catch sections after the insertion with the supporting plates returned to the initial state; and

providing and positioning a backup plate which prevents the supporting plates from being deformed from the initial state, so that the backup plate secures the engagement between the nails and the nail catch sections.